

## Buried in rubble: On the Afghanistan earthquake

Earthquakes need not be deadly if building **codes** are followed strictly

Afghanistan **reeled on** Monday (September 1, 2025) **in the wake of** a strong earthquake and multiple after-shocks, killing over 1,400 people, and injuring at least 3,100. According to the United States Geological Survey, the primary **tremor** was an earthquake of **magnitude** 6.3 and had **struck** near Jalalabad, Nangarhar **province**. After the first tremor, of magnitude 6.3, at a depth of eight kilometres, **another earthquake**, of magnitude 4.7, **struck** around 140 km from the **epicentre** of the initial tremor. The **impact** of the disaster **is playing out** in the Kunar and Nangarhar provinces where rescue efforts are on to find and **extricate** survivors and locate bodies that are buried under **piles** of rubble. What makes the **salvage** operations particularly challenging are the limited resources available to authorities **given** that the **ruling Taliban regime** faces multiple **sanctions**. This has been particularly **stark following** the **withdrawal** of the United States from Afghanistan in 2021. The United Nations and international **humanitarian** agencies have **voiced** their **condolences** and expressed support to **aid** the **wounded** and **assist** with relief operations.

**Afghanistan**, which **abuts** the Hindu Kush mountains, and is at the **junction** of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates, **lives** under the constant threat of an earthquake. Since 1900, there have **reportedly** been 12 earthquakes with a magnitude greater than 7 in north-east Afghanistan. In October 2023, the western Herat province was **devastated** by an earthquake of magnitude 6.3, and several **aftershocks**, which killed more than 1,500 people and damaged or destroyed more than 63,000 homes. Given the **vulnerability** of the region, it also **bears out** that **earthquakes** of this magnitude and epicentre-depth **cause** much less damage to lives and property in several parts of the world. Delhi, in February 2025, reported a **quake** of magnitude 4, at a relatively **shallow** — and, therefore, potentially more devastating — depth of five kilometres below the surface. True, a quake of magnitude 6 is roughly 100 times more powerful than a one of magnitude 4 **assuming** similar depths of origin, but there was no physical damage at all reported anywhere in Delhi. At the other end, Chile is regularly **besieged** by quakes greater than a magnitude of 6, **with all accounts** suggesting **minimal** infrastructural damage and no **attributable casualties**. This is due to the country's focused **commitment** to **enforcing** building codes. Earthquakes need not be a death **sentence** and Afghanistan must take **decisive** steps to **strengthen** its building codes and work to spread awareness on their **enforcement**. **[Practice Exercise]**

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

## Vocabulary

1. **Buried in rubble** (phrase) – be entombed, be trapped under debris, be pinned beneath ruins, be covered by wreckage, lie under collapsed masonry मलबे में दब जाना
2. **Code** (noun) – regulation, standard, rulebook, norms, guidelines नियमावली
3. **Reel** (verb) – stagger, sway, totter, be shaken, reel from हिल जाना
4. **In the wake of** (phrase) – following, after, in the aftermath of, subsequent to, on the heels of के बाद
5. **Tremor** (noun) – quake, shock, jolt, seismic event, temblor भूकंपीय झटका
6. **Magnitude** (noun) – scale, size, strength, intensity, severity तीव्रता
7. **Strike** (verb) – hit, occur, jolt, impact, smite आघात करना/घटित होना
8. **Province** (noun) – region, state, territory, area, prefecture प्रांत
9. **Epicentre** (noun) – center, focal point, ground zero, heart, focus (surface) केंद्र/उपकेंद्र
10. **Play out** (phrasal verb) – unfold, transpire, pan out, materialize, run its course घटित होना
11. **Extricate** (verb) – free, rescue, disentangle, liberate, pull out निकालना
12. **Pile** (noun) – heap, mound, stack, mass, accumulation ढेर
13. **Salvage** (noun) – rescue, recovery, saving, retrieval, reclamation राहत
14. **Given** (preposition) – considering, in view of, in light of, taking into account, because of को को देखते हुए
15. **Ruling** (adjective) – incumbent, governing, in power, reigning, current सत्तारूढ़
16. **Regime** (noun) – government, administration, authority, ruling order, dispensation शासन
17. **Sanction** (noun) – penalty, embargo, restriction, punitive measure, censure प्रतिबंध
18. **Stark** (adjective) – harsh, severe, blunt, bare, sheer स्पष्ट
19. **Following** (preposition) – after, subsequent to, post, in the aftermath of, later than के बाद
20. **Withdrawal** (noun) – pullout, retreat, exit, removal, disengagement निकलना
21. **Humanitarian** (adjective) – benevolent, compassionate, relief-oriented, charitable, aid-focused मानवीय
22. **Voice** (verb) – express, articulate, state, air, convey व्यक्त करना

23. **Condolence** (noun) – sympathy, commiseration, solace, condolence message, compassion शोक-संवेदना
24. **Aid** (verb) – help, assist, support, facilitate, succour सहायता करना
25. **The wounded** (noun) – the injured, the hurt, casualties (injured), the maimed, victims (injured) घायल लोग
26. **Assist** (verb) – help, aid, support, back, facilitate सहयोग करना
27. **Abut** (verb) – border on, adjoin, be contiguous with, touch, neighbour सटा होना
28. **Junction** (noun) – meeting point, confluence, intersection, nexus, juncture मिलन-बिंदु
29. **Reportedly** (adverb) – allegedly, as reported, purportedly, by accounts, said to be कथित तौर पर
30. **Devastate** (verb) – destroy, ravage, wreck, ruin, lay waste उजाड़ देना
31. **Aftershock** (noun) – secondary tremor, follow-up quake, subsidiary shock, post-shock, subsequent tremor अनुगामी झटका
32. **Vulnerability** (noun) – susceptibility, exposure, fragility, weakness, risk असुरक्षा
33. **Bear out** (phrasal verb) – confirm, corroborate, substantiate, validate, support सिद्ध/समर्थित करना
34. **Quake** (noun) – earthquake, tremor, temblor, shock, seismic event भूकंप
35. **Shallow** (adjective) – not deep, superficial, low-depth, shoal, surface-level उथला
36. **Assume** (verb) – suppose, presume, postulate, take for granted, infer मान लेना/अनुमान करना
37. **Besiege** (verb) – surround, bombard (with), beleaguer, pester, assail घेर लेना
38. **With all accounts** (phrase) – by all accounts, as per reports, from every indication, generally agreed, so it's said सभी रिपोर्टों के अनुसार
39. **Minimal** (adjective) – least, negligible, very small, marginal, trifling न्यूनतम
40. **Attributable** (adjective) – ascribable, due to, traceable to, assignable, imputable के कारण/से संबद्ध
41. **Casualty** (noun) – fatality, injured person, victim, loss, sufferer जनहानि
42. **Commitment** (noun) – dedication, resolve, pledge, adherence, obligation प्रतिबद्धता/संकल्प
43. **Enforce** (verb) – implement, impose, uphold, execute, apply लागू करना

44. **Sentence** (noun) – punishment, penalty, judgment, condemnation, doom दंड

45. **Decisive** (adjective) – conclusive, resolute, firm, determining, crucial निर्णायक

46. **Strengthen** (verb) – reinforce, bolster, fortify, consolidate, enhance मजबूत करना

47. **Enforcement** (noun) – implementation, execution, application, policing, compliance-monitoring प्रवर्तन

### Summary of the Editorial

1. A strong earthquake struck Afghanistan on September 1, 2025, followed by multiple aftershocks.
2. The disaster killed over 1,400 people and injured at least 3,100.
3. The main tremor measured 6.3 in magnitude, striking near Jalalabad, Nangarhar province, at a depth of eight kilometres.
4. Another earthquake of 4.7 magnitude followed, about 140 km away from the epicentre.
5. Kunar and Nangarhar provinces are the worst affected, with rescue efforts underway.
6. Survivors and bodies remain trapped under piles of rubble, complicating salvage operations.
7. Relief efforts are constrained due to Afghanistan's limited resources and international sanctions against the Taliban regime.
8. The crisis is more severe because of Afghanistan's isolation after the U.S. withdrawal in 2021.
9. The United Nations and humanitarian agencies have expressed condolences and promised support.
10. Afghanistan lies in a seismically active region, at the junction of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates.
11. Since 1900, north-east Afghanistan has experienced at least 12 earthquakes above magnitude 7.
12. In October 2023, Herat province suffered a 6.3 quake that killed 1,500 and destroyed 63,000 homes.
13. Earthquakes of similar strength cause far less destruction in countries with strict building codes.
14. Examples include Delhi (Feb 2025, magnitude 4 quake) and Chile, where higher magnitude quakes cause little damage due to strong infrastructure norms.
15. The editorial stresses that earthquakes need not be deadly if Afghanistan strengthens and enforces building codes along with awareness.

**Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based****[Editorial Page]**

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Somber and cautionary
  - B. Celebratory
  - C. Sarcastic
  - D. Indifferent/neutral
2. **What is the passage's central implication about why some regions suffer far fewer casualties from similar or stronger earthquakes?**
  - A. Casualties are almost entirely determined by the quake's magnitude.
  - B. Strict building codes and their enforcement, plus preparedness, greatly reduce casualties.
  - C. Depth alone decides the extent of destruction.
  - D. International sanctions are the primary cause of earthquake deaths everywhere.
3. **Where did the primary 6.3-magnitude earthquake strike, according to the passage?**
  - A. Near Jalalabad, Nangarhar province
  - B. Herat city, Herat province
  - C. Delhi NCR
  - D. Asadabad, Kunar province
4. **According to the passage, what specifically makes the salvage and rescue operations in Afghanistan particularly challenging after the earthquake?**
  - A. The authorities have limited resources because the ruling Taliban regime faces multiple international sanctions, a constraint that has become especially stark since the 2021 U.S. withdrawal, thereby hampering logistics and procurement for relief.
  - B. The United Nations and international humanitarian agencies have refused to offer condolences or operational support, creating a diplomatic vacuum that blocks the inflow of aid and expertise.
  - C. The epicentre was in Delhi at a very shallow depth, causing widespread damage in India that diverted critical rescue teams away from Afghanistan and delayed cross-border assistance.
  - D. Afghanistan has never experienced major earthquakes before, so responders lack any seismic risk awareness, making planning impossible due to a total absence of prior events and institutional memory.
5. **Direction: Mark whether the statement is True or False strictly according to the passage. Then choose the best option.**

**Statement:** Chile frequently experiences earthquakes of magnitude greater than 6, yet generally reports minimal infrastructure damage and no attributable casualties because of its strong enforcement of building codes.

  - A. False — the passage argues that Chile rarely experiences quakes over magnitude 6, so building codes are untested and their role is uncertain.
  - B. False — the passage says Chile suffers heavy casualties during most >6 magnitude quakes due to poor compliance with construction standards.
  - C. False — the passage mentions Chile's quakes but links low damage mainly to geography and luck, not to the enforcement of building codes.
  - D. True — the passage attributes Chile's minimal damage and lack of casualties during frequent >6 magnitude quakes to the country's focused commitment to enforcing building codes

6. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank to complete the idiom and make the sentence meaningful.**  
Her company's new product launch was a real \_\_\_\_\_ squib.  
A. damp  
B. deaf  
C. dear  
D. dirty
7. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph**  
A) With schools trying to ensure that their students do well, the stiff competition at the time of admissions is unlikely to ease because of the easy evaluation expected.  
B) Noting that it was happy with the cancellation of the Class XII board exams in view of the pandemic, the Supreme Court has rightly observed that the matter needed to be resolved at the earliest as it involved the future of students.  
C) The CBSE and CISCE have been asked to place on record in two weeks a well-defined objective criteria for the assessment of students as the court wants to go through the parameters to deal with objections and dispel the uncertainty clouding the prospects of those wishing to seek admissions in colleges in India and abroad.  
D) There are already apprehensions over the criteria to be adopted for assessment as it may cut both ways with those expecting to do well in the exams finding their expectations belied while others faring better than expected.  
A. BCAD  
B. CDAB  
C. BCDA  
D. DABC
8. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the highlighted group of words in the given sentence.**  
The practice of having two or more spouses at the same time was quite common in the olden days.  
A. Patricide  
B. Patriarchy  
C. Parochialism  
D. Polygamy
9. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**  
Pull someone's leg  
A. To avert a great danger  
B. To tease or play a joke on someone  
C. To take a situation seriously or earnestly  
D. To physically pull the legs of a person
10. **Identify the sentence with an error in the use of simple present tense**  
A. She walks every morning.  
B. We brush our teeth daily.  
C. He go to school every day.

- D. You do yoga every morning
11. **Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence.**  
The two nations finally reached a **rapprochement** after years of hostility.  
A. Estrangement  
B. Harmony  
C. Reconciliation  
D. Accord
12. **Select the most appropriate Antonym of the highlighted word in the given sentence.**  
The vase is very **fragile** and must be handled carefully.  
A. Vulnerable  
B. Brittle  
C. Frail  
D. Sturdy
13. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**  
A) The Covid-19 pandemic can be ascribed with advancing more new learning trends that are enduring, even though the pandemic is nearly over.  
B) The submerging of e-learning in the educational process has resulted in an indisputable decrease in attention span.  
C) E-learning or online learning is undoubtedly a trend that will persist even after the pandemic ends, simply as it provides so many benefits.  
D) The attention span of learners has been restricted to 18 to 20 minutes (approx.) during the Covid-19 phase.  
A. ABDC  
B. DBAC  
C. DBCA  
D. ACBD
14. **Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.**  
Her speech had a **substantive** impact on the audience.  
A. Trivial  
B. Meaningful  
C. Superficial  
D. Negligible
15. **Identify the preposition that needs to be omitted to correct the sentence.**  
They live near to the park  
A. Near  
B. live  
C. They  
D. To
16. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**  
She received / an award / for her work / in a engineering field  
A. an award  
B. she received



- C. for her work  
D. in a engineering field.
17. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the highlighted group of words in the given sentence.**  
We had to study a poem of lamentation, especially for the dead, written by Thomas Gray.  
A. an essay  
B. an account  
C. a report  
D. an elegy
18. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**  
Her personality is quite **efervasant**.  
A. efervasant  
B. effarvesent  
C. effervescent  
D. effervascent
19. **Select the best express Synonym of the given highlighted word.**  
The controversial issue began to **polarise** the community.  
A. Unite  
B. Divide  
C. Harmonize  
D. Integrate
20. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**  
A. It is past midnight.  
B. All is calm, but not quiet.  
C. A few other dogs from near and far respond to the barking, each creating individual high-decibel circles of a half-a-km radius.  
D. A dog begins to bark in a measured way — not for, or at, anything particularly, but as though just establishing its presence — and wakes up households around a half-a-km radius  
A. a, b, d, c  
B. c, a, b, d  
C. d, a, c, b  
D. a, c, b, d

**Comprehension:**

**In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.**

In March 2024, the Indian government issued revised guidelines under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016. These guidelines provide a framework for assessing the \_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_ of disability of people with two copies of the sickle cell gene, or with both sickle cell and beta thalassaemia, or Hb D. Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a painful, progressive, and disabling blood disorder, disproportionately affecting \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_ communities. Recognition under the Act was expected to provide reservations in the allotment of agricultural land and housing, poverty \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_ and development schemes, and education, work, and healthcare for those with the disease. The RPWD Act, 2016 extends reservations in public

sector employment under the 4% quota for persons with vision and hearing loss, locomotor disabilities, and intellectual disabilities. However, individuals with SCD and other blood disorders are not included in the \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_. This decision has \_\_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_\_ disappointment and criticism.

21. **What should come in the place of 1.**

- A. betterment
- B. candor
- C. debacle
- D. extent

22. **What should come in the place of 2.**

- A. illustrious
- B. marginalised
- C. distinguished
- D. sidelined

23. **What should come in the place of 3.**

- A. fallacy
- B. alleviation
- C. ignominy
- D. kudos

24. **What should come in the place of 4.**

- A. moderation
- B. respite
- C. quota
- D. hubris

25. **What should come in the place of 5.**

- A. spark
- B. sparking
- C. sparked
- D. sparks

## Answers

1. A    2. B    3.A    4. A    5. D    6.A    7. C    8.D    9. B    10. C    11.A    12.D  
 13. D    14.B    15.D    16.D    17.D    18.C    19.B    20.A    21.D    22.B    23.B    24.C  
 25. C

**[Practice exercise]**

## Explanations

### 1. A) **Somber and cautionary**

The passage reports heavy casualties and resource limitations, then urges stricter building codes—serious, concerned, and warning in nature.

passage में भारी जनहानि और संसाधनों की कमी बताकर सख्त भवन-कोड लागू करने का आग्रह है—लहजा गंभीर और चेतावनीपूर्ण है।

B (Celebratory): No praise or jubilation; it describes tragedy and risk.

C (Sarcastic): No irony or ridicule.

D (Indifferent/neutral): Not detached; it advocates action (“must take decisive steps”).

### 2. B) **Strict building codes and their enforcement, plus preparedness, greatly reduce casualties.**

The passage contrasts Afghanistan with Chile to show that enforced building codes and preparedness keep damage/casualties low even for  $\geq 6.0$  quakes; it urges Afghanistan to strengthen and enforce codes.

A: Magnitude isn't the sole driver; Delhi's M4 caused no damage, Chile handles  $\geq 6$  with minimal harm—pointing to infrastructure/codes.

C: Depth matters, but the text stresses codes/enforcement as decisive in outcomes.

D: Sanctions hinder rescue capacity, but the passage attributes low casualties elsewhere mainly to building standards, not sanctions.

### 3. A) **Near Jalalabad, Nangarhar province**

The passage states the first 6.3 quake “had struck near Jalalabad, Nangarhar province.”

B: Herat's deadly quake is cited from Oct 2023, not this event.

C: Delhi's mention is a Feb 2025 M4 example with no damage, not the current epicentre.

D: Kunar is affected in rescue efforts, but the primary strike was near Jalalabad (Nangarhar).

### 4. A) **The authorities have limited resources because the ruling Taliban regime faces multiple international sanctions, a constraint that has become especially stark since the 2021 U.S. withdrawal, thereby hampering logistics and procurement for relief.**

The passage explicitly states that salvage efforts are “particularly challenging” because authorities have limited resources owing to multiple sanctions on the Taliban regime, highlighted after the 2021 U.S. withdrawal.

passage स्पष्ट रूप से कहता है कि बचाव कार्य “विशेष रूप से चुनौतीपूर्ण हैं क्योंकि प्रतिबंधों के कारण संसाधन सीमित हैं, और यह स्थिति 2021 में अमेरिकी वापसी के बाद और स्पष्ट हुई।

B: Wrong—UN and agencies did offer condolences and support. यूएन और एजेंसियों ने संवेदना व सहायता दी है।

C): Wrong—epicentre near Jalalabad; Delhi's M4 event had no damage. केंद्र जलालाबाद के पास था; दिल्ली में 4 तीव्रता का झटका था और कोई क्षति नहीं हुई।

D: Wrong—Afghanistan faces constant seismic threat and has had many major quakes since 1900. अफ़ग़ानिस्तान लगातार भूकंपीय ख़तरे में रहता है और 1900 से कई बड़े भूकंप हुए हैं।

5. D) True — the passage attributes Chile's minimal damage and lack of casualties during frequent >6 magnitude quakes to the country's focused commitment to enforcing building codes.

The passage explicitly connects Chile's frequent >6 quakes with minimal damage and no casualties and credits this outcome to strict building-code enforcement.

passage स्पष्ट करता है कि चिली में >6 तीव्रता के भूकंप अक्सर आते हैं, फिर भी न्यूनतम क्षति व शून्य जनहानि होती है—क्योंकि भवन संहिता का कड़ाई से पालन किया जाता है।

A: Wrong—Chile is said to be regularly besieged by >6 quakes, not "rarely". चिली में >6 तीव्रता के झटके अक्सर आते हैं, "कम" नहीं।

B: Wrong—passage says minimal damage, not heavy casualties passage न्यूनतम क्षति बताता है, भारी जनहानि नहीं।

C: Wrong—credit is given to building codes, not "geography/luck". श्रेय भवन संहिता को दिया गया है, "भौगोलिक भाग्य" को नहीं।

6. A) **Damp squib** (idiom) - a situation or event which is much less impressive than expected. एक घटना या स्थिति जो उम्मीद से कम प्रभावी या निराशाजनक हो।

7. C) **BCDA**

B: This sentence gives a context about a major event happening in the education system, which is the cancellation of the Class XII board exams due to the pandemic. It sets the stage for the discussion that follows

C: This sentence follows B naturally, as it provides additional information about the situation, specifically how the Supreme Court has instructed education boards (CBSE and CISCE) to create an objective criteria for student assessment in light of the exam cancellation.

D: This sentence continues the narrative by discussing the possible implications and concerns arising from the new assessment criteria being formulated, thus following sentence C.

A: Sentence A provides a conclusion, highlighting how despite these changes, competition for school admissions will continue to be tough because of the expected lenient evaluation.

8. D) **Polygamy** (noun) – The practice or custom of having more than one wife or husband at the same time. बहुपत्नी प्रथा

**Patricide** (noun) – The act of killing one's father. पितृहत्याकांड

**Patriarchy** (noun) – A social organization where males are heads of families. पितृसत्ता

**Parochialism** (noun) – A narrow or limited outlook, focusing only on a small area or community. संकीर्णता

9. B) **Pull someone's leg** (Idiom) – To tease or play a joke on someone किसी का मजाक बनाना या छेड़ना।

10. C) "He go to school every day." में error है क्योंकि Subject "He" Singular है, और Singular Subject के साथ Simple Present Tense में Verb के साथ 's' या 'es' जोड़ते हैं। अतः "go" के स्थान पर "goes" का use होगा। सही वाक्य होगा: "He goes to school every day."

"He go to school every day." is incorrect because the subject "He" is singular, and in the Simple Present Tense, singular subjects take a verb with 's' or 'es.' Hence, "go" should be replaced with "goes." The correct sentence is: "He goes to school every day."

11. A) **Rapprochement** (noun) – Reconciliation, détente, fence-mending, normalization. मेल-मिलाप/ दोस्ती  
 Antonym: **Estrangement** (noun) – Separation, alienation, division, rupture, severance. दूरी, अलगाव  
**Harmony** (noun) – Agreement, peace, concord, amity. सामंजस्य  
**Reconciliation** (noun) – Settlement, reunion, pacification. मेल-मिलाप  
**Accord** (noun) – Agreement, treaty, consensus, pact. समझौता
12. D) **Fragile** (adjective) – Delicate, vulnerable, brittle, frail, sensitive. नाजुक  
 Antonym: **Sturdy** (adjective) – Strong, robust, durable, well-built, hardy. मज़बूत  
**Brittle** (adjective) – Breakable, crisp, frail, fragile. भंगुर  
**Frail** (adjective) – Weak, delicate, feeble, infirm. कमजोर  
**Vulnerable** (adjective) – Exposed, defenseless, fragile, delicate. असुरक्षित
13. D) **ACBD**  
 A: This sentence gives an introduction about the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on learning trends.  
 C: This sentence builds on the introductory idea presented in sentence A, by specifying e-learning as one of the trends that has persisted because of its benefits  
 B: After discussing the positive aspect of e-learning in sentence C, this sentence shifts focus to a downside related to e-learning — the decrease in attention span.  
 D: This sentence further elaborates on the idea presented in sentence B by quantifying the attention span  
 (In sort)  
 A and C form a logical sequence discussing the new trend of e-learning.  
 B and D follow as they talk about the consequence (decreased attention span) of that trend
14. B) Substantive (adjective) – significant, meaningful, substantial, concrete, material ठोस  
 Synonym: **Meaningful** (adjective) – Important, significant (महत्वपूर्ण)  
**Trivial** (adjective) – Insignificant, minor (तुच्छ)  
**Superficial** (adjective) – Shallow, lacking depth (सतही)  
**Negligible** (adjective) – Very small, unimportant (नगण्य)
15. D) यहाँ 'to' का use गलत है क्योंकि 'near' पहले से ही एक preposition है और इसे 'to' के साथ use करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। अतः वाक्य को सही करने के लिए 'to' को हटा दिया जाना चाहिए। सही होगा: They live near the park.  
 The use of 'to' is incorrect because 'near' is already a preposition and does not require 'to' to complete its meaning. To correct the sentence, 'to' should be omitted. The correct sentence is: They live near the park.
16. D) 'a' के बदले 'an' का use होगा क्योंकि 'engineering' का पहला अक्षर 'e' है, जो एक vowel (स्वर) है। Articles का नियम कहता है कि किसी vowel से शुरू होने वाले शब्द से पहले 'an' का use होता है। सही वाक्य: She received an award for her work in an engineering field.

Instead of 'a,' 'an' should be used because the word 'engineering' starts with the vowel 'e.'  
According to the rule of articles, 'an' is used before words that begin with a vowel sound.  
Correct Sentence: She received an award for her work in an engineering field

17. D) **Elegy** (noun) – A poem of lamentation, especially for the dead. शोक-गीत  
**Essay** (noun) – A short piece of writing on a particular subject. निबंध  
**Account** (noun) – A report or description of an event or experience. विवरण  
**Report** (noun) – A formal statement or account describing an event or situation. प्रतिवेदन
18. C) The correct spelling of 'efervasent' is **effervescent** which means "lively, bubbly, vivacious" ऊर्जस्वी, चंचल.
19. B) **Polarise** (verb) – divide, split, alienate, harden positions, drive a wedge बाँटना  
 Synonym: **Divide** (verb) – Separate into parts (विभाजित करना)  
**Unite** (verb) – Join, bring together (एकजुट करना)  
**Harmonize** (verb) – Bring into agreement, accord (सामंजस्य स्थापित करना)  
**Integrate** (verb) – Combine, blend (एकीकृत करना)
20. A) a, b, d, c  
 a: This sentence sets the time and the environment, providing context.  
 b: We know it's past midnight and thus the calmness can be anticipated. However, the mention of "not quiet" sets up an anticipation or a precursor to a possible disturbance or sound, which is a logical continuation from the first sentence.  
 d: This sentence now explains the reason why it's "not quiet" as mentioned in sentence 'b'. It elaborates on the source of the noise/disturbance. Moreover, the use of the phrase "a half-a-km radius" indicates the effect of the dog's barking.  
 c: This sentence is a direct consequence of the dog's barking from sentence 'd'. After the initial dog has barked, other dogs respond. The use of the phrase "a half-a-km radius" again provides continuity and confirms the sequence.
21. D) '**Extent**' का use होगा क्योंकि "extent" का अर्थ होता है सीमा/पैमाना, और यहाँ guidelines का उद्देश्य है disability की "extent of disability" यानी कितनी गंभीर या कितनी बड़ी है, उसका आकलन करना। यह व्याकरणिक और सन्दर्भ के हिसाब से बिल्कुल सही है। जबकि 'Betterment' (सुधार) assessment के साथ fit नहीं होता, 'Candor' (साफगोई/ईमानदारी) disability से जुड़ा माप नहीं दर्शाता, और 'Debacle' (विफलता/आपदा) भी negative और असंगत है। '**Extent**' will be used because it means "degree/level," and the guidelines aim to assess the "extent of disability," i.e., how severe the disability is. This fits both grammatically and contextually. Whereas 'Betterment' means improvement, which cannot be assessed in this framework, 'Candor' means frankness, unrelated here, and 'Debacle' means failure, which is incorrect in this context.
22. B) '**marginalised**' का use होगा क्योंकि "marginalised" का अर्थ होता है "हाशिए पर रखा गया/अल्पसंख्यक और पीछे रह गए लोग"। sentence में mention किया गया है कि Sickle cell disease disproportionately प्रभावित करती है ऐसे communities को जो अक्सर समाज में पिछड़े या कम प्रतिनिधित्व वाले होते हैं, इसलिए 'marginalised' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Illustrious'

(प्रसिद्ध/प्रतिष्ठित) का अर्थ यहाँ असंगत है, 'Distinguished' (उल्लेखनीय/प्रतिष्ठित) भी context में फिट नहीं बैठता, और 'Sidelined' (पार्श्व में रखा गया) आमतौर पर active neglect को दर्शाता है, इसलिए यहाँ सही नहीं है।

'Marginalised' will be used because it means "placed at the margins/underrepresented or disadvantaged." The sentence mentions that Sickle cell disease disproportionately affects communities that are often socially or economically disadvantaged, making 'marginalised' fitting here. Whereas 'Illustrious' means famous, 'Distinguished' means notable or eminent, and 'Sidelined' implies being pushed aside, none of which fit the context.

23. B) **alleviation** का use होगा क्योंकि "alleviation" का अर्थ होता है "कम करना/सुविधा प्रदान करना/निवारण करना"। sentence में mention किया गया है कि recognition under the Act provide करता है सहायता या schemes में लाभ, जैसे poverty alleviation and development schemes, इसलिए 'alleviation' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Fallacy' (भ्रम/गलत धारणा) अर्थ में irrelevant है, 'Ignominy' (अपमान) contextually गलत है, और 'Kudos' (प्रशंसा) भी fitting नहीं बैठता।

'Alleviation' will be used because it means "reduction/relief." The sentence mentions that recognition under the Act provides benefits in schemes like poverty alleviation and development, making 'alleviation' fitting here. Whereas 'Fallacy' means a mistaken belief, 'Ignominy' means disgrace, and 'Kudos' means praise, none of which fit the context.

24. C) **Quota** का use होगा क्योंकि "quota" का अर्थ होता है "निर्धारित हिस्सेदारी/आरक्षण"। sentence में mention किया गया है कि individuals with SCD and other blood disorders are not included in the public sector employment 4% quota, इसलिए 'quota' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Moderation' (मध्यस्थता/संतुलन) context में फिट नहीं है, 'Respite' (आराम/अंतराल) अर्थ बदल देता है, और 'Hubris' (अहंकार/घमंड) बिल्कुल असंगत है।

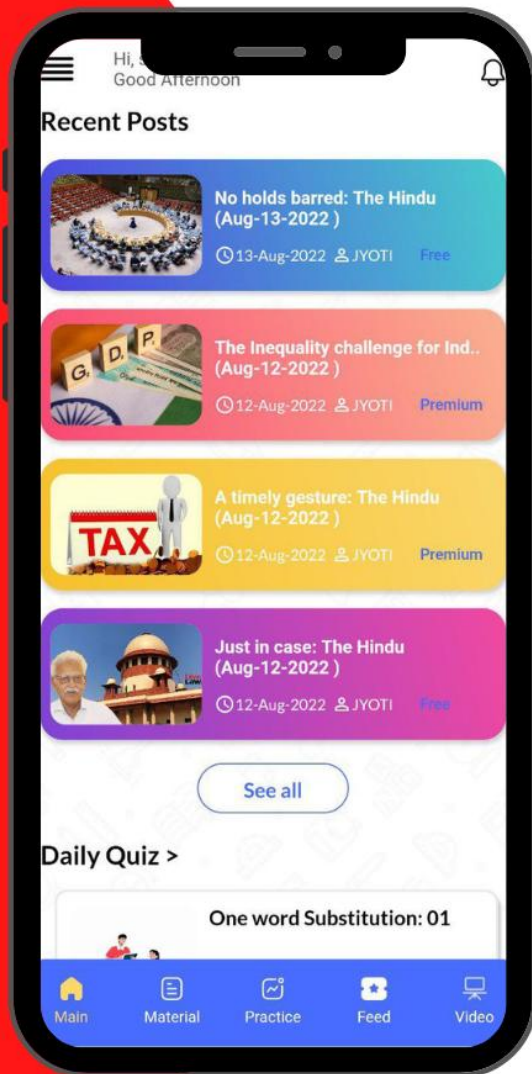
'Quota' will be used because it means "allotted share/reservation." The sentence mentions that individuals with SCD and other blood disorders are not included in the 4% quota for public sector employment, making 'quota' fitting here. Whereas 'Moderation' means balance, 'Respite' means relief, and 'Hubris' means excessive pride, none of which fit in this context.

25. C) **sparked** का use होगा क्योंकि "sparked" का अर्थ होता है "उत्पन्न किया/प्रेरित किया" और यहाँ sentence में past event की बात की जा रही है कि इस decision ने disappointment और criticism उत्पन्न किया। इसलिए 'sparked' व्याकरण और context दोनों में सही है। जबकि 'Spark' (verb base form) subject-verb agreement के अनुसार गलत है, 'Sparking' (present participle) continuous action दिखाता है जो यहाँ contextually गलत है, और 'Sparks' (third person singular) भी tense के हिसाब से fitting नहीं है।

'Sparked' will be used because it means "caused/triggered," and the sentence refers to a past event where the decision caused disappointment and criticism, making 'sparked' grammatically and contextually correct. Whereas 'Spark' is the base verb form, 'Sparking' is a continuous tense form, and 'Sparks' is third-person singular present tense, none of which fit here.







# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

**English Madhyam**